

Senate File 2020 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 2020

BY ZAUN

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the waiver of undergraduate tuition and
2 mandatory fees charged to certain specified first responders
3 and dependents of such first responders who are enrolled in
4 institutions of higher education under the state board of
5 regents.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 262.9, Code 2024, is amended by adding
2 the following new subsection:

3 NEW SUBSECTION. 17A. *a.* Adopt rules that require
4 institutions of higher education under its control to waive all
5 undergraduate tuition and mandatory fees for first responders
6 or a dependent of the first responder, if designated by a first
7 responder, for not more than five consecutive years while the
8 first responder or dependent is enrolled in the institution of
9 higher education.

10 *b.* The rules shall require all of the following:

11 (1) The first responder must file with the institution of
12 higher education under the board for each year the waiver of
13 undergraduate tuition and mandatory fees is granted pursuant to
14 this subsection an application for the waiver and documentation
15 demonstrating proof of employment as a first responder,
16 verification of satisfactory performance as a first responder,
17 and proof of residence in this state.

18 (2) If the institution of higher education under the board
19 grants the waiver of tuition and mandatory fees to the first
20 responder, the first responder must do all of the following:

21 (a) Enroll in a program of education leading to a bachelor's
22 degree that is related to the job duties of the first
23 responder.

24 (b) Enter into an agreement with the institution that
25 requires the first responder to either pay to the institution
26 an amount equal to the first responder's total undergraduate
27 tuition and mandatory fees that the institution waived pursuant
28 to this subsection or to remain a resident of this state for at
29 least five years after the first responder earns a bachelor's
30 degree or for at least five years after the date the final
31 year of mandatory fees and tuition are waived, whichever is
32 later. The agreement shall also require the first responder to
33 annually file with the institution of higher education under
34 the board documentation demonstrating the residence of the
35 first responder for the required time.

1 (3) If the institution of higher education under the
2 board grants the waiver of tuition and mandatory fees to the
3 dependent of the first responder, the dependent must enter into
4 an agreement with the institution that requires the dependent
5 to either pay to the institution an amount equal to the
6 dependent's total undergraduate tuition and mandatory fees that
7 the institution waived pursuant to this subsection or to remain
8 a resident of this state for at least five years after the
9 dependent earns a bachelor's degree from the institution or for
10 at least five years after the date the final year of mandatory
11 fees and tuition are waived, whichever is later. The agreement
12 shall also require the dependent to annually file with the
13 institution of higher education under the board documentation
14 demonstrating the residence of the dependent for the required
15 time.

16 c. For purposes of this subsection:

17 (1) "*Dependent*" means the spouse or dependent child of a
18 first responder.

19 (2) "*First responder*" means all of the following:

20 (a) A law enforcement officer, as defined in section 80B.3.

21 (b) A paid professional who is employed on a full-time or
22 part-time basis for the duty of fighting fires.

23 (c) A paid professional who is employed on a full-time
24 or part-time basis for the duty of fighting fires and who
25 is trained and authorized by federal or state law to provide
26 health care services in the course of the individual's official
27 duties.

28 EXPLANATION

29 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
30 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

31 This bill relates to the waiver of undergraduate tuition and
32 mandatory fees charged to certain specified first responders
33 and dependents of such first responders who are enrolled in
34 institutions of higher education under the state board of
35 regents.

1 The bill requires state board of regents to adopt rules
2 that waive all undergraduate tuition and mandatory fees
3 for first responders or a dependent of the first responder
4 for not more than five consecutive years while the first
5 responder or dependent is enrolled in an institution of
6 higher education under the board's control. The bill defines
7 "dependent" to mean the spouse or dependent child of a first
8 responder. The bill defines "first responder" to mean a law
9 enforcement officer, a paid professional fire fighter, and a
10 paid professional fire fighter who is trained and authorized
11 by federal or state law to provide health care services in the
12 course of the individual's official duties.

13 The bill establishes what such rules are to require,
14 including the first responder's filing and documentation
15 requirements. The bill provides that such rules are to require
16 the first responder to enroll in a program of education leading
17 to a bachelor's degree that is related to the job duties of the
18 first responder. Additionally, the bill provides that such
19 rules are to require that if the waiver of tuition is granted
20 to the first responder or dependent, the first responder or
21 dependent must enter into an agreement with the institution
22 requiring the first responder or dependent to either repay
23 the amount of undergraduate tuition and mandatory fees that
24 were waived or to remain a resident of this state for at least
25 five years after graduation or at least five years after the
26 date the final year of mandatory fees and tuition are waived,
27 whichever is later. The bill also provides that such rules are
28 to require the first responder and dependent to annually file
29 with the institution documentation demonstrating the residence
30 of the first responder or dependent for the required time.